

AYLS70_ AYLS301_ AYLS151_ Home Young African Leaders Initiative_Simplified

 HTML Content

AYLS70_ AYLS301_ AYLS151_ Home Young African Leaders Initiative_Simplified

SourceURL: <https://yali.state.gov/>

Young African Leaders Initiative

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is the United States' signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders.

About YALI

Mandela Washington Fellowship

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is YALI's flagship program, bringing African civic, business, and community leaders for academic coursework, leadership training, and networking at U.S. colleges and universities.

Regional Leadership Centers

The four YALI Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) provide in-person and online training throughout the year in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership and public management. They also offer opportunities for professional development and networking.

[More about the Regional Leadership Centers](#)

YALI Network

The YALI Network provides free tools and resources to help young African leaders develop the skills and connections they need to become a positive force for change in their communities.

[More about the YALI Network](#)

Join YALIServes 2020!

YALIServes this year will be dedicated to resiliency and how we can all continue to grow as individuals, community members, and business leaders, even in the face of great difficulty. Together, we will still honor International Nelson Mandela Day this year with the YALIServes Digital Day of Action.

[Learn more](#)

Learn about the...

Regional Leadership Centers

YALI Regional Leadership Centers build on existing institutional capacity in Africa to provide high quality training, mentoring, and networking support to a greater number of young leaders than can be reached through the Mandela Washington Fellowship. The Centers reach exceptional young leaders between the ages 18 and 35 from a wide range of backgrounds and diverse experiences.

[More about Regional Leadership Centers >](#)

Mandela Washington Fellowship

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the United States' flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking.

[More about the Mandela Washington Fellowship >](#)

Featured YALI Network Online Course

Strategies for Personal Growth and Development

Learn different ways you can develop your business, organization and personal skills.

Select

What's New With YALI?

Her Side Job is Standing Up for Survivors of Abuse

Learn how Gloria is producing content and standing up for women, every day

Meet the Woman Paving the Way for Girls in Kenya

Christine is working to provide women with a strong support network. Here's why.

She Grew Up Without Books. Now She's Fighting for Literacy for Every Child.

Wairimu on literacy, access to education, and community service

[Read More From YALI](#)

**Stay connected with the YALI
Network:**

AYLS70_ AYLS301_AYLS151_ Frequently Asked Questions - Mandela Washington Fellowship_Simplified

SourceURL: <https://www.mandelawashingtonfellowship.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

Frequently Asked Questions

What does YALI stand for?

YALI stands for the Young African Leaders Initiative.

What is the Young African Leaders Initiative?

The [Young African Leaders Initiative](#) (YALI) is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. YALI was founded in 2010 and is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2020. YALI was created to support young Africans as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. There are three components of YALI: the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Regional Leadership Centers, and the YALI Network.

What is the Mandela Washington Fellowship?

The [Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders](#), begun in 2014, is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking. In 2021, the Fellowship will provide approximately 700 outstanding young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa with the opportunity to hone their skills at a U.S. college or university with support for professional development after they return home. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the [U.S. Department of State](#) with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by [IREX](#).

What are Regional Leadership Centers?

[YALI Regional Leadership Centers](#) (RLCs) build on existing institutional capacity in Africa to provide high-quality training, mentorship, and networking support to young leaders beyond the Mandela Washington Fellows. RLCs provide on-the-continent programming focused on the Fellowship's core themes – business, civic leadership, and public management. The four RLCs offer training throughout the year in English, French, and Portuguese and are located in Nairobi, Dakar, Accra, and Pretoria. [Learn more about the RLCs.](#)

What is the YALI Network?

The [YALI Network](#) provides members with invaluable opportunities to connect with other leaders in their community and to learn from experts in their field. Opportunities include free online training, professional development, online conversations, and more. [Learn more about the YALI Network.](#)

What are other young leaders initiatives?

In addition to YALI, there are three other U.S. Department of State programs focused on young leaders in the Americas, in Southeast Asia, and in Europe.

The [Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative](#) (YLAI) is a Professional Fellows Program that empowers entrepreneurs and innovative civil society leaders to strengthen capacity and advance their entrepreneurial ideas to contribute to social and economic development in their communities and region. [Learn more about YLAI.](#)

The [Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative](#) (YSEALI) is the U.S. government's signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia. Through a variety of programs and engagements, including U.S. educational and cultural exchanges, regional exchanges, and seed funding, YSEALI seeks to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region, strengthen ties between the U.S. and Southeast Asia, and nurture an ASEAN community. [Learn more about YSEALI.](#)

The [Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative](#) (YTILI) Fellowship is a flagship young European leaders program of the U.S. Department of State. The YTILI experience is a professional development opportunity for innovators to become change makers by developing the skills to be successful entrepreneurs.

By exploring entrepreneurship in the transatlantic context, YTILI fellows develop the expertise to better engage in policy conversations in their home countries, across Europe, and in the transatlantic sphere. [Learn more about YTILI.](#)

What is the Reciprocal Exchange component of the Mandela Washington Fellowship?

Through the [Reciprocal Exchange](#) component, Americans have the opportunity to apply for funding to travel to Africa to collaborate on projects with Fellowship Alumni, building upon connections initiated while Fellowship Alumni were in the United States. These partnerships and professional connections are intended to form lasting relationships, expand markets and networks, and increase mutual understanding. [Learn more about Reciprocal Exchanges.](#)

What is the Professional Development Experience component of the Mandela Washington Fellowship?

Through the [Professional Development Experience](#) (PDE), a group of competitively-selected Fellows remain in the United States for four weeks after the Leadership Institutes to work with private, public, and non-profit organizations each year after the Summit. Both Fellows and hosts benefit from discussing shared issues and challenges in their sectors, broadening their

perspectives, and positioning U.S. organizations for international engagement. [Learn more about PDEs.](#)

What are the eligibility requirements for the Fellowship?

Applicants will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is open to young African leaders between the ages of 25 and 35 who meet the [criteria listed in the eligibility information](#).

What are the criteria for selection?

Selection panels will use various criteria to evaluate applications. To view the full list of criteria, [review the eligibility information](#).

If I have a disability, will the Mandela Washington Fellowship accommodate my special needs?

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the Mandela Washington Fellowship. The Mandela Washington Fellowship does not discriminate against applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or any other protected characteristic as established by U.S. law. [Learn more about the Fellowship's application policy.](#)

Each Fellow's needs are evaluated individually so that the host institution and IREX can determine the reasonable accommodations needed to ensure full participation in program activities. [Learn more about what types of reasonable accommodations may be available during the Fellowship.](#)

How can I partner with the Fellowship in the United States?

Many local and multinational corporations, NGOs, universities, and regional institutions have become partners and are directly supporting the Mandela Washington Fellowship by hosting Fellows, collaborating with them on new initiatives in the United States and Africa, and offering access to grants, financing, mentoring, and other professional development opportunities.

Learn more about how you can work with the Fellowship on our [Partnership Information](#) page.

How can I partner with the Fellowship in Africa?

Please visit yali.state.gov/network to reach out to the YALI Network and visit yali.state.gov/RLC to connect with the Regional Leadership Center to see if there are opportunities for partnerships with them, as well as the U.S. Embassy in your region.

Share

